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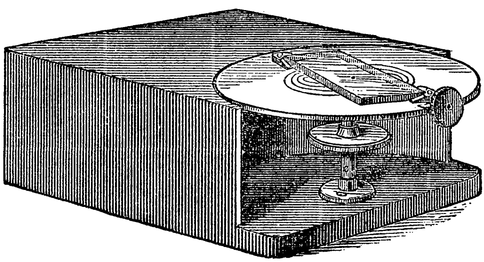
brought to notice, are quite numerous, and appear to be what may be more correctly termed trepanning, that is the part of the skull operated on was removed entire, and all ages are represented.

I have purposely refrained from much mention of my speculations on this custom of our aboriginal people; yet I have thought that the superstition of the modern North American Indian in regard to there being two souls, one of which visits the body after death, may throw some light on the subject. We know that the coverings of their graves, made of wood or bark, always have a perforation at one extremity for the supposed entrance and egress of the soul. But the question arises — Why, then, is not the perforation of the skull constant, or at least more frequent? — HENRY GILLMAN, *Detroit*, *Michigan*.

MICROSCOPY.

A NEW SELF-CENTRING TURN-TABLE. — Mr. C. F. Cox, of New York, has contrived a turn-table which centres the slide unerringly, and is at the same time a convenient working instrument. The slide is held, by pressure upon two diagonally opposite corners, between two clutches that are made, by a right and left screw, to move toward or from the centre simultaneously and at a uniform rate. The centre of revolution must therefore coincide with the centre of the diagonal of the slide which is the exact centre of a truly rectangular slide, and is practically the centre of any slide fit to be used. This very useful piece of apparatus is, fortunately for the taste of its inventor and for the convenience of other microscopists, unencumbered by a patent; and it has been already constructed by Miller Bros. and by J. W. Queen & Co. The style made by the latter firm is figured in the accompanying cut.

Fig. 210.



Cox's Self-centring Turn-table.

For all new work, such as making varnish cells or centring cells or objects of any kind, this turn-table seems worthy to supersede all previous forms. For repairing old work, which may not be well centred originally, it should be provided with a spring clip under which a mounted object can be centred by the concentric circles in the usual manner, and which, when not in use, can be removed entirely from the table. By a general adoption of such a table much of the annoyance incidental to revarnishing slides would be avoided.

NOTES.

PROF. D. S. JORDAN has prepared, for the Report for 1874 of the Indiana State Geological Survey, a preliminary list of the fishes which he has found in Indiana, also including those likely to be obtained in the waters of the state. This list is prepared for the purpose of inducing local collectors to examine the streams and lakes of the state. While all such local lists are much wanted, we think a mistake is made in using the "Key" system for the means of identification. Why is it not just as well to give the characters of the orders, families, genera and species, and thus teach the collector as he works out his specimens, instead of making him follow out a series of artificial groups until he finds something that will answer to the specimen he has in hand. The labor by the last method is not lessened, and when the end is reached only a name is secured, whereas by the former method the name is found as readily, and much has been learned in hunting it out.

THE Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), have recently issued two instructive pamphlets, which also illustrate the riches in their keeping. One of these is a "Guide to the Cesnola Collection," and gives a general account, with a number of cuts, of this most valuable collection of ancient art from the excavations made on the Island of Cyprus. This collection was purchased by the Museum for about $50,000, and is the result of seven years labor on the part of General Cesnola, during which time over eight thousand Phœnician tombs were opened. These tombs were situated six and one-half feet below the more recent Greek tombs, and the most recent date given to them is about 800 or 1,000 years before Christ. The other, and much larger, pamphlet is a "Hand Book for the use of visitors examining Pot-